3.25 lakhs neo-literates at a per learner cost of Rs. 49.97 per year for a period of two years, which works out to Rs. 3.25 crores only.

However, an adhoc grant of Rs. 15 lakhs only so far has been released. The District Collector has since submitted a detailed revised pruned estimates as per the direction of the NLMA. The final grant will be based on the approved estimates.

(b) Post Literacy proposals are expected to be submitted by the District Administration as soon as 25% of the targeted group under Total Literacy Compaign or 50000 persons reach the level of Primer-II as part of the literacy campaign. Every district which attains this level accordingly submits the proposal for the consideration of the PAC of NLMA. Guntur district which fulfilled this norm submitted the proposal under PLP. There are 195 such projects which have so far been sanctioned in the country and in 19 districts in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The main object of the scheme is to eradicate illiteracy in the area of operation and there is no comparision of performance between the districts. The following position reveals the performance in the Guntur districts :

Targeted coverage	-	570873
Enroled	-	420414
Completed Pr. I	-	361178
still in Pr. I	-	3396
completed Pr. II	-	295402
still in Pr. II	-	25916
completed Pr. III	-	260403
still in Pr. III	-	10167

(d) The grant will be utilised towards running of 6500 Akshara Pragathi Kendras; training cost; monitoring and evaluation; environment building; office administration, transport charges etc. as per the norms approved by NLMA.

Tourism Development Programmes

1811. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has given a suggestion that in order to achieve the targets of attracting 50 lakh tourists by the turn of the century, India would have to become selective in its approach and improve its tourism development programmes;

(b) if so, the details of measures suggested by FICCI in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the suggestions made by the FICCI; and

(d) if so, the extent to which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has given a number of suggestions on different occassions for tourism development in the country. These include adoption of a selective approach for increasing the foreign exchange earnings, provision of incentives like allocation of land at concessional rate for tourism industry, amendment of land Ceiling Act, inclusion of tourism in the Concurrent List, etc. Some of the items have been discussed in the State Tourism Minister's Meeting held in June 1997. Those items which fall within the jurisdiction of the States have been referred to them.

ONGC and Oil

1812. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to compensate Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited for giving some of their fields to private sector, in 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rate of cess and royalty being paid on oil and gas explored from small and medium sized discovered fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) For the 5 medium-sized and 13 small-sized fields, for which the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) have been signed, the cess and royalty payable as per the PSCs for crude is Rs. 900/- tonne and Rs. 481/- tonne respectively. For Natural Gas royalty is payable at an advalorem rate of 10% and no cess in payable.

[Translation]

Barrage Over Yamuna

1813. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the time since when the project for the construction of a barrage over Yamuna in Agra submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government is pending with the Union Government;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Governor of Uttar Pradesh had laid the foundation stone of this project during the President's Rule in 1996;

(c) if so, the reasons for not clearing this project;

(d) the details of the objections ascribed by the Government in clearing this project; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove these objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Detailed Project Report of Agra Barrage Project in Uttar Pradesh was received in Central Water Commission in April, 1996.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The project Report has been examined in Central Water Commission and appraisal of some aspects have been completed. The State Government is required to sort out the remaining techno-economic issues.

[English]

Tourist Centres in Losses

1814. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state ;

(a) the total number of tourist centres at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of tourist centres are running in losses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the year-wise details of the losses incurred by each of these centres during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) There are several places in the country which are visited by tourists. These centres, however, cannot be classified as loss making or otherwise.

Faults in Policy Decision

1815. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view the poor track record of the major and medium sectors of irrigation, the Union Government propose to set up an enquiry commission to ascertain faults in policy decision, the reasons for delay and corruption in various stages of the projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government to contain corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) The Major and Medium irrigation projects are implemented by the State Governments from State funds and Plan allocations and they are responsible for proper and timely implementation of the projects. However, wherever specific instances of irregularities are reported the concerned State Governments are expected to take suitable action in the matter.

[Translation]

Colleges for Deaf and Dumb

1816. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government and private colleges separately for deaf and dumb persons in Maharashtra;

(b) whether all these colleges are recognised by the Government; and

(c) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to run such private institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The Government is not aware of any colleges exclusively for deaf and dumb persons affiliated to any of the Universities in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Restoration of LPG & Telephone Quota to MP

1817. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after withdrawing the gas coupen and telephone connection allotment facilities from the Members of Lok Sabha, any special arrangements have been made for the needy persons for allotment of gas and telephone connections and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) while the facility of gas and telephone connection is still available to the Rajya Sabha Members then the reasons for which the Members of Lok Sabha have been deprived of this previlege; and

(c) whether the Government would consult the Hon. Speaker and get this facility restored to the Members of Lok Sabha and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The discretionary quota for allotment of telephone connections of all MPs including Rajya Sabha MPs has not been withdrawn at any point of time. However, the discretionary quota for release of LPG connections for Member of Lok Sabha has been discontinued. The decision to discontinue the discretionary quota for release of LPG connections to